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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/698,187	10/31/2003	Jason O. Adams	6232-237 (180086)	3192

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EXAMINER

LE, THANH TAM T

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2839

DATE MAILED: 06/24/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/698,187	Applicant(s) ADAMS ET AL.	
	Examiner Thanh-Tam T. Le	Art Unit 2839	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 May 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12,23-31 and 36-41 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12,23-31 and 36-41 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>12/22/04 & 4/01/05</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. Claims 1 and 3 are objected to because of the following informalities:

Claim 1, line 7, "blades" lacks an antecedent basis; line 8, "openings" lacks an antecedent basis;

Claim 3, line 2, "said first" lacks an antecedent basis;

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1-12, 28-31 and 38-41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Wen-Te (5,454,729).

Regarding claims 1, 7, 28 and 38-39, Wen-Te, figure 3, discloses a system for supplying current from a source of electrical power to a dimmable electrical lighting load, comprising:

- a receptacles (20) having at least one opening adapted for receipt of a corresponding blade of a compatible plug (10) having at least one blade, the receptacle arranged to be supplied with electrical power regulated by a dimmer, the receptacle comprising:

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- at least one electrical contact (23) located for contact with the at least one blade the compatible plug by the at least one opening of the receptacle to establish an electrical connection between the at least one blade and the electrical contact, the contact dimensioned and oriented for compliance with an industry standard configuration; and
- a mating formation pair including a receptacle formation (30) and a corresponding plug formation (31), the mating formation pair preventing a general-use plug compliant with the industry standard configuration and lacking the corresponding plug formation from establishing electrical connection with the receptacle, the receptacle formation of the mating formation pair allowing the compatible plug defining the corresponding plug formation and other wise complying with the industry standard configuration to establish electrical connection with the receptacle by an amount sufficient.

Regarding claim 2, the receptacle formation comprising a projection (30).

Regarding claims 3 and 30, a second electrical contact (another 23) and a non-conductive face member covering the electrical contacts, the face member defining first and second openings for receipt the first and second blades, wherein the projection extends outwardly from the face member between the first and second openings.

Regarding claim 4, the projection is elongated in a direction that is substantially parallel to a height defined by at least one of the first and second openings.

Regarding claim 5, the projection including a middle portion and end portions, wherein the middle portion extends from the face member to a distance is greater than the end portions to define a convex configuration.

Regarding claim 6, wherein the first and second contacts are arranged to supply power to a circuit that including a load connectable to the compatible plug having the plug formation of the mating formation pair.

Regarding claims 8-10 and 27, the opening and blade respectively defining receptacle and blade formations each define a cross section having a dimension that is reduced with respect to a corresponding dimension provided by the industry standard configuration, and including a width and a height.

Regarding claims 11 and 12, the receptacle is polarized and the opening defining the receptacle formation controls access to a hot electrical contact and including a common housing with at least one receptacle compliant with the industry standard configuration.

Regarding claim 29, the projection is non-conductive.

Regarding claim 31, a grounding conductor.

Regarding claim 40, the plug (10) including a plug body defining the plug formation and wherein the plug formation extends to a periphery of the plug body.

Regarding claim 41, the receptacle including first and second openings each defining a cross section having a height and a width, each defining a central axis with respect to the blade height and aligned with each other.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 23-27 and 36-37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Royer (4,293,733) in view of Wen-Te (5,454,729).

Regarding claims 23 and 36-37, Royer, figures 1 and 2, discloses a receptacle comprising:

- a first receptacle (18A) complying with a general-use industry standard configuration for receptacles, the first receptacle adapted to receive plugs (30) complying with the same industry standard configuration and establish an electrical connection to supply non-reduced voltage;
- a second receptacle (18B) having at least one electrical contact, the second receptacle configured to receive a compatible plug (40) having at least one electrical contact for electrical connection with the electrical contact of the second receptacle; and

Royer discloses the instant claimed invention as described above except for a mating formation pair including a receptacle formation and a plug formation respectively carried by the second receptacle and the compatible plug.

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Wen-Te, figure 3, discloses a receptacle (20) having a projection (30) and a plug (10) having a slot (31), the projection and the slot read on for a mating formation pair including a receptacle formation and a plug formation. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide Royer to have the projection and the slot disposed on the receptacle and the plug, respectively, as taught by Wen-Te, in order to attach the plug to the socket firmly without being removed.

Regarding claim 24, wherein the compatible plug is capable of insertion into the first receptacle.

Regarding claim 25, it is noted that Wen-Te discloses the receptacle formation is defined by a projection (30).

Regarding claim 26, Royer discloses the second receptacle comprising a second electrical contact and a non-conductive face member covering the first and second electrical contacts. The face member having first and second openings to permit access to the first and second electrical contacts.

Regarding claim 27, the receptacle formation is defined by an opening dimensioned to prevent insertion of a corresponding plate of the plug complying with the industry standard configuration.

Response to Arguments

6. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 23, 36 and 38 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thanh-Tam T. Le whose telephone number is 571-272-2094. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30-5:00.

8. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, TC Patel can be reached on 571-272-2098. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

9. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Thanh-Tam T. Le
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2839